

.of a very different opinion. I do not think, them essential to the obtaining* eminent deg-rees of science; but I think them very useful towards it. I suppose there is a portion of life during .which our faculties are ripe, enough for this and for nothing more useful. * * * To read the Latin and Greek authors in their original is a sublime luxury; and I deem luxury in science to be at least as justifiable as in architecture, painting, gardening, or the other arts. I enjoy Homer in his own language infinitely beyond Pope's translation of him and both beyond the dull narrative of the same events by Darius Phry-gius; and it is an innocent enjoyment. I thank on my knees him who directed my early education for having put into¹ my possession this rich source of delight; and I would not exchange it for anything which I could thus have acquired and have not since acquired. (To Joseph Priestly, 1800. F. VII., 414.)

LAW.—I have proposed to you to carry on the study of law with that of politics and history. Every political measure will forever have an intimate connection with the laws of the land; and he who knows nothing of these will often be perplexed and often foiled by adversaries having the advantage of that knowledge over him. I would therefore propose not only the study but the practice of the law for some time, to possess yourself of the habit of public speaking. (To Thomas Mann Randolph, written from Paris, 1787. F. IV., 405.)

LAWS.—The experience of all ages and countries hath shown that cruel and sanguinary laws defeat their own purpose, by engaging the benevolence of mankind to withhold prosecutions, to smother testimony, or to listen to it with bias; and by producing in many instances a total dispensation and impunity under the names of pardon and privilege of clergy; when, if the punishment were only proportioned to the injury, men would feel it their inclination, as well as their duty, to see the laws observed; and the power of dispensation, so dangerous and mischievous oft-times by holding up a hope of impunity, might totally be abolished, so that men while contemplating to perpetrate a crime would see their punishment ensuing as